



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 91

TO: Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

DATE: February 12, 2014

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 91 Month Ending January 2014

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study field sampling activities commenced at the beginning of September and were completed on October 24, 2013. Field sediment and porewater chemistry analysis is complete and validated data were submitted to EPA on January 22, 2014 for quality assurance review. The first batches of short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyalella azteca*) were initiated on January 21, 2014 with sediment samples grouped according to batches agreed to by Teck and EPA in December 2014.

TAI submitted the Draft Final Assessment of Sediment Toxicity to White Sturgeon Data Summary Report and response to EPA comments on January 20, 2014.

TAI received a July 3, 2013 letter from EPA with comments on the Draft Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment Study Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). EPA and TAI entered into a dispute over three issues in the comments which were resolved and documented in the letter from EPA to TAI on December 20, 2013. At the time of writing, TAI submitted the Draft Final Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study QAPP and response to EPA comments on February 6, 2014. The document is accessible to registered users via the secure domain of the project website (www.ucr-rifs.com) as well.

Based on a meeting with EPA and the Citizens for Clean Columbia (CCC) on August 21, 2013 and TAI's receipt the September 18, 2013 letter and final data quality objective

(DQO) memorandum from EPA, TAI instructed the chemistry laboratory to retrieve archived sediment, collected from beaches in 2011, from storage and re-analyze them in accordance with the EPA-approved 2009 Beach Sediment Study QAPP. Analysis was completed and validated data were reviewed by EPA in January with only two concern. At the time of wring, TAI submitted a memorandum with response to EPA's concerns on February 4, 2014 and the data were approved.

TAI is in receipt of the January 28, 2014 letter from EPA with comments on the Draft Soil Study QAPP and are reviewing and evaluating comments.

TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis reports for the Tribal Consumption and Resource Use Survey and the Recreational Use Survey on December 18, 2013 and January 17, 2014 respectively. TAI is reviewing and preparing comments for submittal to EPA in February and March 2014.

TAI is in receipt of the September 27, 2013 letter from EPA with comments on the Draft Final Beach Sediment Study Field Sampling and Data Summary Report and are reviewing and evaluating comments.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.